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3628

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By

Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. NECW 18.788 (100806-16753)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Haruhiko KINOSHITA
Serial No.: 09/897,328
Filed: July 2, 2001
Title: LOAN EXAMINATION...
Examiner: Pedro R. Kanof
Art Unit: 3628
Conf. No.: 2068

May 4, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copy of the document listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated April 6, 2004 from the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO- 1449 appear in the Japanese Office Action.

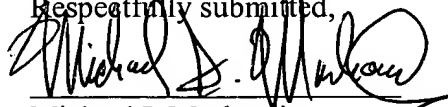
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael I. Markowitz", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael I. Markowitz

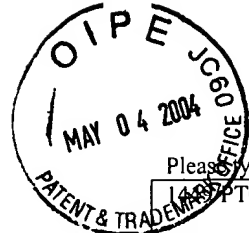
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1498 PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 09/897,328

Filing Date : July 2, 2001

First Named Inventor: H. KINOSHITA

Group Art Unit : 3628

Examiner Name : P.R. KANOF

Attorney Docket No. : NECW 18.788

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		08-147381	JP	HITACHI LTD	06/07/1996	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

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